

**IN THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

PATENT APPLICATION

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I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated below and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date of Deposit: October 31, 2003

Signature: *Lisa L. Ulpis*

**ASSIGNEE
NAME:** International Business
Machines Corporation

**ASSIGNEE
RESIDENCE:** Armonk, New York

TITLE: Methods and Apparatus for Decision Support Activation
and Management in Product Life Cycle Management

**COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. BOX 1450
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450**

SIR:

Enclosed are the following papers relating to the above-named application for patent:

Application - 23 pages of Specification, 4 pages of Claims and 1 page of Abstract
24 Sheets of informal drawing(s)

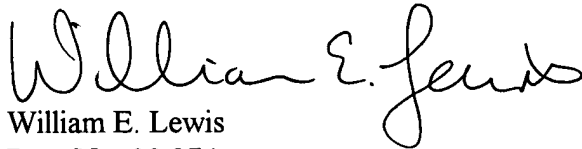
CLAIMS AS FILED				
	NO. FILED	NO. EXTRA	RATE	CALCULATIONS
Total Claims	20-20 =	0	x \$18 =	\$0
Independent Claims	4-3 =	1	x \$86 =	\$86
Multiple Dependent Claim(s), if applicable			\$290 =	\$0
Basic Fee				\$770
			TOTAL FEE:	\$856

Please file the application and charge **International Business Machines Corporation Deposit Account No. 09-0459** the amount of \$856, to cover the filing fee. In the event of non-payment or improper payment of a required fee, the Commissioner is authorized to charge or to credit **Deposit Account No. 09-0459** as required to correct the error. Duplicate copies of this letter are enclosed.



Please address all correspondence to: **Ryan, Mason & Lewis, LLP, 90 Forest Avenue, Locust Valley, New York 11560.** Telephone calls should be made to the undersigned attorney at (516) 759-2946.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William E. Lewis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "William" being the most prominent part.

Date: October 31, 2003

William E. Lewis
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